

Remarks/Arguments

This paper is submitted responsive to the Office Action mailed July 11, 2008. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that the subject matter of claim 7 was found to be allowable. By the present paper, claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 7, and claim 7 cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

The Examiner objected to claims 8-10 as failing to recite proper method steps. Initially, it is noted that claimed 8 and 9 each call for method steps, i.e., securing and welding respectively. Further, all 3 of these claims recite specific parts which are the subject of the method, and this also clearly properly limits the scope of the claims, as obviously a similar method carried out using different parts would not be covered by the objected-to dependent claims. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 8-10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been rewritten as an independent article claim, and this redrafting along with amendment of some claim dependencies and canceling without prejudice of claims 16 and 17 is believed to address the remaining issues under 35 USC 112.

Finally, as to patentability of claim 11, this claim has been amended to recite the structure which performs the

allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7, and claim 11 is likewise believed to be allowable.

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to address each of the issues raised in the aforesaid action and place the application in condition for allowance. If, upon considering this paper, the Examiner is of the opinion that issues remain which could be addressed by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss same.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this paper. If any such fee is due, please charge same to deposit account 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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